



Catholic communities

A guided discussion

ECC Witness Circles

A conversation about the people
behind the numbers

everycasualty.org



You're welcome here

1

We'll hear one person's story.

2

We'll talk honestly.
Every question is welcome.

3

Nothing you say leaves this room.

4

You don't need to be an expert, or agree on politics.

“One man's death is a tragedy. A million deaths is just a statistic.”

Attributed to Stalin

“If I look at the mass, I will never act. If I look at the one, I will.”

Mother Teresa

Everything in this conversation lives between these two sentences.

Meet one person

Instructions

Choose one profile from ECC's Memorial
memorial.everycasualty.org

Read it aloud, slowly. Then hold a
moment of silence together.



Record. Recognise. Remember.

Casualty recording is the painstaking effort to document every death in a conflict – the name, the age, the place, the circumstances – one person at a time.

Done right, it is complex, including many overlapping facets.

Around the world, a network of local organisations does this heartbreaking work, often by interviewing surviving families, and often at personal risk.

It underpins accountability, legal cases, compensation – and the right of a family simply to know the fate of the person they lost.



Recording the dead is an act of dignity.



It protects the living

records can serve as evidence for accountability and justice.



It restores identity

ensuring every life matters, and is remembered.



It refuses the idea

that anyone is “collateral damage.”

War devalues human life. Casualty Recording is the work that restores that value.

Made in the image of God

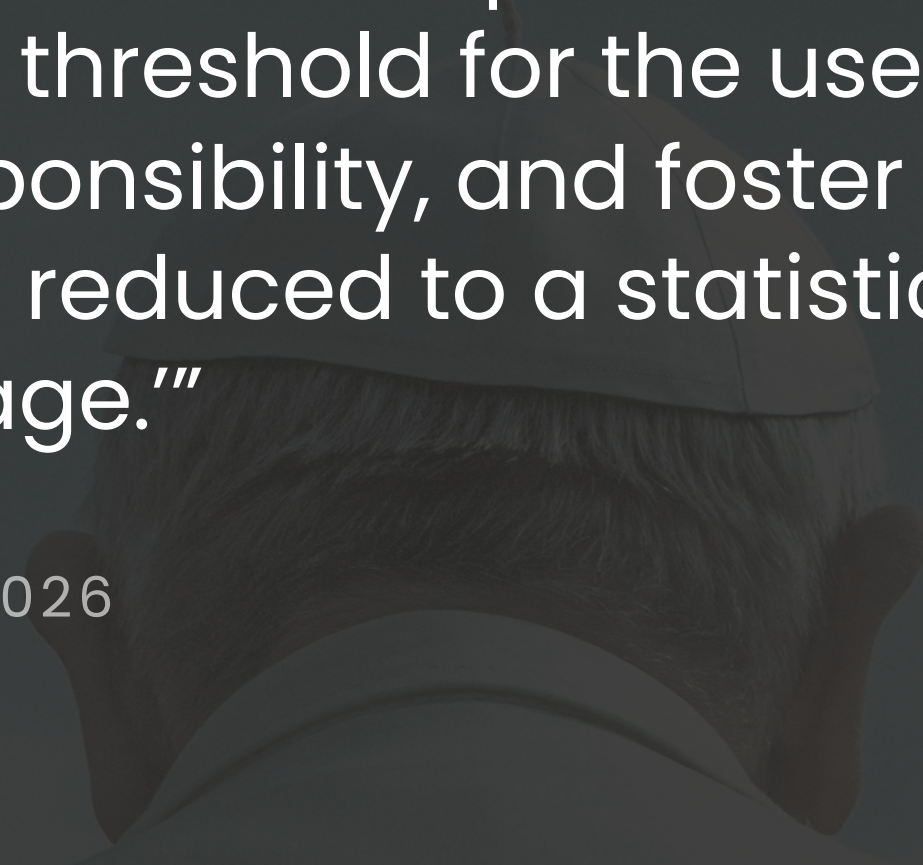
At the heart of Christian faith is the claim that every man, woman and child is made in the image and likeness of God – an infinite dignity that is not earned by being useful, powerful or productive, but simply held, in and beyond every circumstance.

The person who orders the bombs dropped does not matter more than the child on whom they fall.

Instructions

Share a teaching, scripture or prayer from your own tradition that speaks to this – the worth of a life, or the duty to remember the dead.



A faint, dark background image of Pope Leo XIV, showing the back of his head and shoulders. He is wearing a white zucchetto and a white cassock with a black sash.

“While AI can enhance the defence and protection of civilians, it can also lower the threshold for the use of force, shield people from responsibility, and foster a culture in which the enemy is reduced to a statistic and the victim to ‘collateral damage.’”

Pope Leo, Magnifica Humanitas ¶183, 2026

History and memory

“Pope Francis encouraged us to ‘touch the wounded flesh’ of those who suffer – to look at their faces, listen to their stories, acknowledge their wounds. Painful events require both history and memory: the former to recount the facts, the latter to bear witness to lived experiences... The Church can be a place of living memory for victims.”

Magnifica Humanitas ¶216–217, 2026

History to recount the facts. Memory to bear witness to the lives. Casualty recording is both – always both.



Let's talk

Instruction

One question at a time. Gentle and respectful voices – off politics, onto people and dignity. There are no right answers, and every voice should be heard.

Question 1

Did anything change for you when we read one person's story? How did you feel?

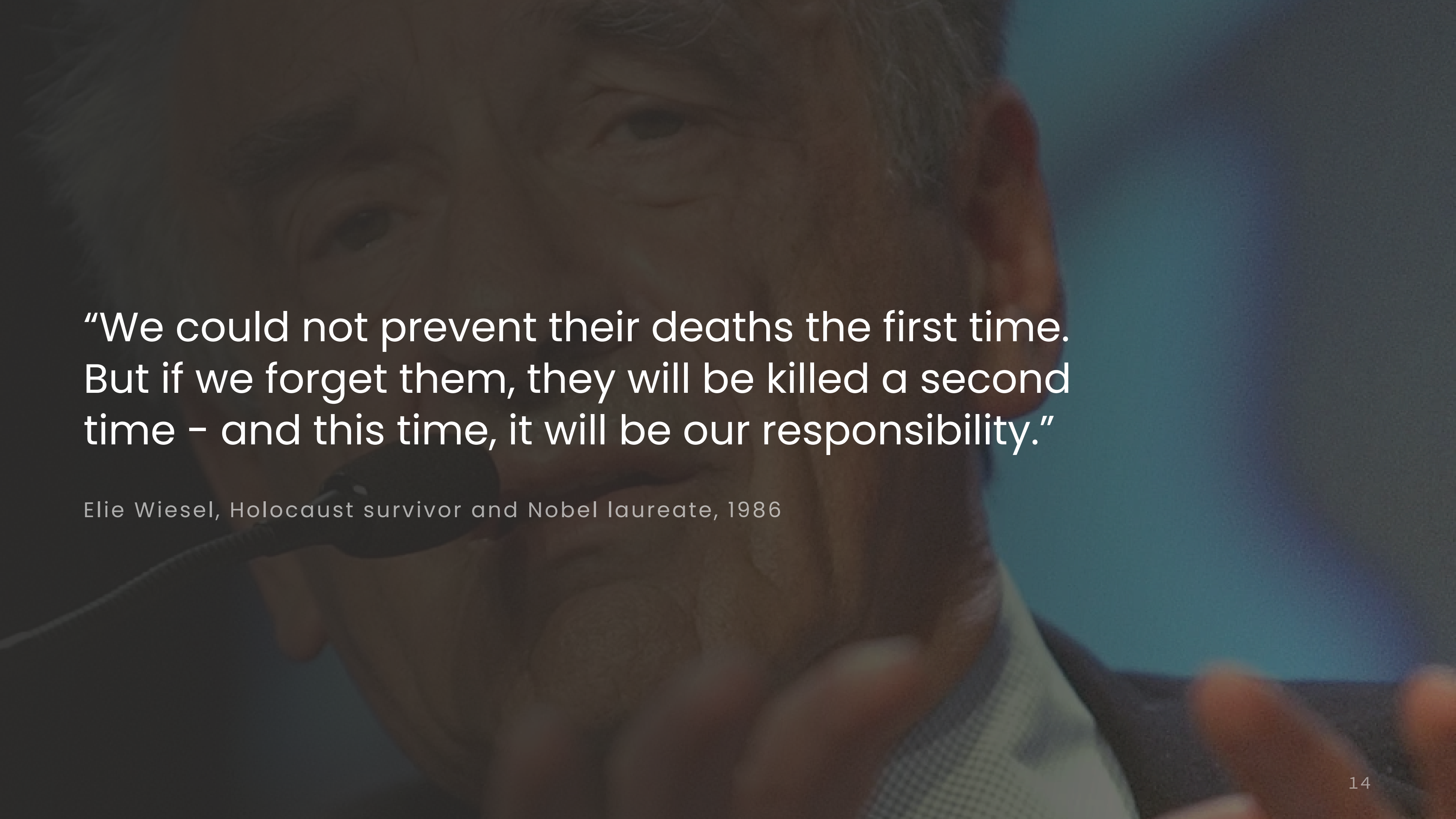
Question 2

Why does knowing someone's name and story matter?

Question 3

Life is precious.

What does that ask of us when the lives lost are strangers, far away, or “on the other side”?



“We could not prevent their deaths the first time.
But if we forget them, they will be killed a second
time – and this time, it will be our responsibility.”

Elie Wiesel, Holocaust survivor and Nobel laureate, 1986

We remember them by name

From mourning to hope and peace.

Instructions

We will read a handful of names from ECC's Memorial aloud, with a pause after each. As we read each name, choose one act of remembrance:

- 1 light a candle for each name
- 2 lay a stone in a bowl
- 3 hold a minute of silence



What will you do to ensure each life lost to war is remembered with dignity?

A small, personal commitment – to carry out of this room and into your own life.

Some people choose to

Lay a flower on Remembrance Day for someone whose name they learned

Light a candle on their birthday

Say a name aloud, and share their story with someone

Return to the Memorial when they are ready, and meet another person



Stay part of the circle.

1

Host it again

Bring this conversation to another group – a house group, a chaplaincy, a school, a friend's parish.

2

Join us in November

A new edition of ECC's Memorial is released this November, with a memorial event for all in London on Remembrance Sunday.

3

Join the Remembrance Collective

everycasualty.org/RC

and **sign up to the newsletter**, which keeps you close to the work. You can also support ECC's mission there.



Every life deserves recognition.

By honouring the losses of the past, we can build a more peaceful future for everyone.

Instructions

Let us close with a final moment of silence, followed by prayer.

**EVERY
CASUALTY
COUNTS**

everycasualty.org